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**Member Shelter Programs**

The Umbrella  
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Women & Families  
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center  
Danbury, CT

United Services, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Programs  
Dayville, CT

Network Against Domestic Abuse  
Enfield, CT

Greenwich YWCA  
Domestic Abuse Service  
Greenwich, CT

Interval House  
Hartford, CT

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis  
Meriden, CT

New Horizons  
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center  
New Britain, CT

Domestic Violence Services  
New Haven, CT

Women's Center of SE CT  
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services  
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project  
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven  
Waterbury, CT

United Services, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Programs  
Willimantic, CT

To: Appropriations Committee  
From: Linda Blozie, Director of Public Affairs  
Date: February 23, 2009  
Re: ACC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2011,  
and Making Appropriations Therefor.

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Linda Blozie and I am the Director of Public Affairs for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Thank you for accepting my testimony regarding Bill 6365: An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2011, and Making Appropriations Therefor.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the network of Legal Services organizations have a long standing relationship. I have personally known the leadership of these organizations for over twenty years and I can personally attest to their commitment to serving those with no other legal options. Innumerable victims of domestic violence have been assisted by lawyers working at Legal Services. I cannot state that strongly enough.

The following represents circumstances when victims of domestic violence turn to legal services for help:

- When they need restraining orders and/or custody orders, especially if the abuser has an attorney
- When they need help keeping their housing or employment because the abuser's harassing behavior is creating problems for them
- When they have a problem involving their basic supports for example if there's a mistake with their eligibility decision, if a child isn't getting necessary medical coverage or if someone in the family is disabled and not getting federal assistance

All of the above identified are serious issues in and of themselves. When coupled with domestic violence, the stakes are increased.

The Legal Services network in Connecticut has made a commitment to work with our member programs and to represent those who we serve. Whether it be a quick phone call to one of their lawyers, a training on the legal system, or representation at a restraining order hearing, we rely on the strength of the Legal Services network in Connecticut to make changes in lives of victims of domestic violence. Together, we operate as well functioning machine. CCADV and its member programs provide counseling and advocacy services while our Legal Services systems provide legal representation. Yet, like anything else, if one part of the machine breaks, the rest ceases to function. If our Legal Services system breaks down, services for victims will break down too. We will leave victims of domestic violence with only half of the services they so desperately need.

I urge legislators to please find funding for legal services. Please do not put victims of domestic violence at greater risk of returning to their abusive situations because they cannot access the legal assistance they so greatly need.

Thank you.